



Doug Parkinson, MLC

Wednesday, 4 January 2006

Taste a Test for Hobart City Council

Hobart City Council must guarantee that entry to the iconic *Taste of Tasmania* will continue to be free.

Labor MLC Doug Parkinson said that although advertising for this year's event had made much of the fact that entry is free, there is growing concern in the community that as from next year, patrons will have to pay for entry.

Mr Parkinson said the *Taste of Tasmania* is a key part of Hobart's Summer Festival and a major drawcard for interstate and international tourists.

"Since its inception it has grown to be a major part of the Hobart Summer Festival and any move to charge an entry fee could damage the attractiveness of *The Taste* to tourists.

"Placing an entry fee on *The Taste* would be a very shortsighted move as it would most likely reduce the number of patrons and in the end, do more financial damage than good.

The Taste celebrates Hobart's summer with a week full of Tasmania's most delectable food, finest wines and other beverages as well as great entertainment.

Mr Parkinson said the Lennon Labor Government had in November last year renewed its commitment to *The Taste* by working with the Hobart Ports Corporation, the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority and Hobart City Council to allow the festival to remain at its current location for at least an extra two years.

“We’re committed to *The Taste* because it is an important showcase of Tasmanian produce and culinary skill and, because it is held at Sydney to Hobart race time, generates national and international media coverage for Tasmania,” Mr Parkinson said.

“I therefore call on the Hobart City Council to show their commitment to *The Taste* and immediately guarantee no entry fee will be charged.”

Further information: Paul Kindermann 6233 2757 or 0400 577 632